

CLAIMS

We claim:

5 1. A candle comprising, in combination, a fuel element comprising a solid fuel, a wick at which said fuel may be burned to produce heat, a heat conductive container for said fuel element whereby said heat may be transported so as to melt said solid fuel, wherein said container is configured so as to cause the flow of melted fuel to said wick.

10 2. ~~The candle of Claim 1, wherein said fuel is selected from the group consisting of gels and solid waxes.~~

15 3. ~~The candle of Claim 2, wherein said fuel is candle wax, and said container is a concave melting plate.~~

20 4. The candle of Claim 1, wherein said heat conductive container is a melting plate, further comprising a heat conductive element chosen from the group consisting of lobes, fins, wick holders, and combinations thereof.

25 5. The candle of Claim 4, wherein said heat conductive element cooperatively engages said fuel element.

30 6. The candle of Claim 5, wherein said fuel element comprises a fuel selected from the group consisting of paraffin, beeswax, montan wax, carnauba wax, microcrystalline wax, stearic acid, fatty alcohols, fatty acids, fatty esters, and combustible gels.

7. A melting plate candle comprising, in combination, a meltable solid fuel, a consumable wick, a heat conductive base upon which said fuel rests, and heat conductive elements by which heat is conducted to said base from a flame upon

said wick, whereby a pool of heated liquid fuel is created, wherein said heat conductive base is configured so as to cause the flow of said heated liquid fuel to said wick for combustion, and said base and said elements are configured so as to cooperatively engage said fuel.

8. The candle of Claim 7, wherein said fuel is selected from the group consisting of gels and solid waxes.

9. The candle of Claim 7, wherein said heat conductive element is selected from the group consisting of lobes, fins, wick holders, and combinations thereof.

10. The candle of Claim 9, wherein said heat conductive element is a lobe.

11. The candle of Claim 9, wherein said heat conductive element is a wick holder with fins.

12. A melting plate candle comprising a replaceable fuel element and wick, a fuel holder comprising a heat conductive melting plate, and at least one heat conductive element to collect heat from a flame at said wick and conduct said heat to said melting plate to thereby melt said fuel and form a pool of liquid fuel on the surface of said melting plate, wherein said fuel holder is configured to position and engage said fuel on said melting plate for rapid melting, and said melting plate is shaped so as to cause said pool of liquid fuel to flow to said wick, and the temperature of said pool of liquid fuel exceeds a temperature of about 180° F. at a point about 10 mm from said wick, and about 160° F at a point about 20 mm from said wick.

13. A melting plate candle as set forth in Claim 13, wherein said heat conductive element is selected from the group consisting of lobes, fins, wick holders, and combinations thereof.

14. The candle of Claim 13, wherein said heat conductive element is a lobe.

15. The candle of Claim 13, wherein said heat conductive element is a wick holder with fins.

16. A solid replacement element for a melting plate candle fuel holder, said element comprising a consumable wick and a solid fuel selected from the group consisting of gels and candle waxes, configured to cooperatively engage said fuel holder, and having a starter bump positioned so as to engage said wick.

17. The replacement element of Claim 16, wherein said fuel is selected from the group consisting of paraffin, beeswax, montan wax, carnauba wax, micro-crystalline wax, stearic acid, fatty alcohols, fatty acids, fatty esters, and combustible gels.

18. A melting plate fuel holder comprising a heat conductive container for a fuel element comprising a combustible wick, said container configured so as to engage and melt said solid fuel element and to cause the flow of melted fuel to said wick.

19. A melting plate fuel holder as set forth in Claim 18, wherein said container comprises a concave melting plate constructed of a heat conductive material selected from the group consisting of brass, aluminum, steel, copper, stainless steel, silver, tin, bronze, zinc, iron, clad materials, heat conductive polymers, ceramics, glass, and combinations thereof.

20. A fuel holder as set forth in Claim 19, wherein said melting plate further comprises a heat conductive element selected from the group consisting of lobes, fins, wick holders, and combinations thereof.